

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,747,971 ("the Hughes patent"). Since claim 1 has been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-5, 7-14, 16 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hughes patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,285,679 ("the Dally patent"). Since these claims have been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot.

Claims 6 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the Hughes patent in view of U.S. Patent, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,459 ("the Wicklund patent"). Since these claims have been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot.

Entry of Amendments

Since the claim amendments merely cancel rejected claims, they raise no new issues and place the application into condition for allowance. Consequently, the claim amendments should be entered.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

The applicants reserve their right to pursue canceled or unclaimed subject matter, such as in a continuation application for example.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on **September 1, 2006** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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